

2017 Bennett Valley  
*Cushing's Block Pinot Noir*

The 2017 Cushing's Block Pinot Noir from Barbed Oak Vineyard in Bennett Valley once again shines. Our longer hang time at this early-ripening site led to a more balanced and complex wine.

As in the past, we received the Pommard clone of Pinot Noir in addition to Calera and Swan selections used in years' past. Pommard's elegance and grace creates a fitting counterpoint to the Calera and Swan clones' darkness and depth. The small, intense clusters grown in this vintage provide seductive density that the initiated have come to expect from Cushing's Block Pinot Noir. The delicate small berry Calera selection of Pinot Noir is always ahead in ripening by a few days. Because of this, we decided to pick the Calera first and bring in the Pommard and Swan three days later.

The 2017 Cushing's Block Pinot is a smooth criminal. The flavor profile is nothing but intoxicating, but it drinks like fine silk. Wild ripe blackberries, spiced plum sauce, green spring flowers, and dewy forest floor layer into an earthy and pleasant mosaic of refined Pinot Noir qualities. Pair with seared duck breast and brussels sprouts.

*Cellar Notes:*

**Percentage New Oak**

44%

**Composition**

100% Pinot noir

**Barrel Aging**

17 months

**Alcohol**

14.3%

**Bottling Date**

March 2019

**Production**

311 cases

*71.3% Calera, 25.6% Swan Selection, 3.1% Pommard  
~20% Whole Cluster · Native Ferment/Native ML*

